

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-12, 14, 18-20, 22, 26-29, 32-34, 38 and 40 are pending in the application. Claims 32-34 and 40 have been allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 12, 18-20, 22 and 38 have been amended, and claims 5 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Per agreement with the Examiner (discussed below), claims 1, 12, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 38 have been amended to incorporate the feature of claim 5; and claim 8 have been amended to incorporate the feature of claim 11. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12, 14, 18-20, 22, 26-29, 32-34, 38 and 40 would be pending.

II. Substance of Interview of May 20, 2005:

Pursuant to MPEP §713.04, the following written statement is provided concerning the substance of the telephonic interview between the Examiner and the undersigned on May 20, 2005. In the teleconference, an agreement was reached to cancel claims 5 and 11 without prejudice, to amend claims 1, 12, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 38 to incorporate the feature of claim 5 and to amend claim 8 to incorporate the feature of claim 11, to place the remaining rejected claims and thus the application in allowable form.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-11, 18-19, 49 and 51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami et al. (U.S. Patent Re 35,104) in view of Odaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,172,380) further in view of Kotani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,029). Claims

2 and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami et al. in view of Odaka and Kotani et al. and further in view of Engelbrecht et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,912,917). Claims 22, 26-29 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami et al. in view of Engelbrecht et al. and further in view of Kotani et al. Claims 12, 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami et al. in view of Hunsinger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,624) and further in view of Kotani et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as follows.

Independent claims 1, 8, 12, 18-20, 22 and 38 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 5 or 11 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to place the application in allowable form. These claims and their dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4450.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4450.

Dated: _____

5/23/05

By: _____

Respectfully submitted,
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